ACT VII: KARAKURI * A MAN
"THE CURTAIN RISES"

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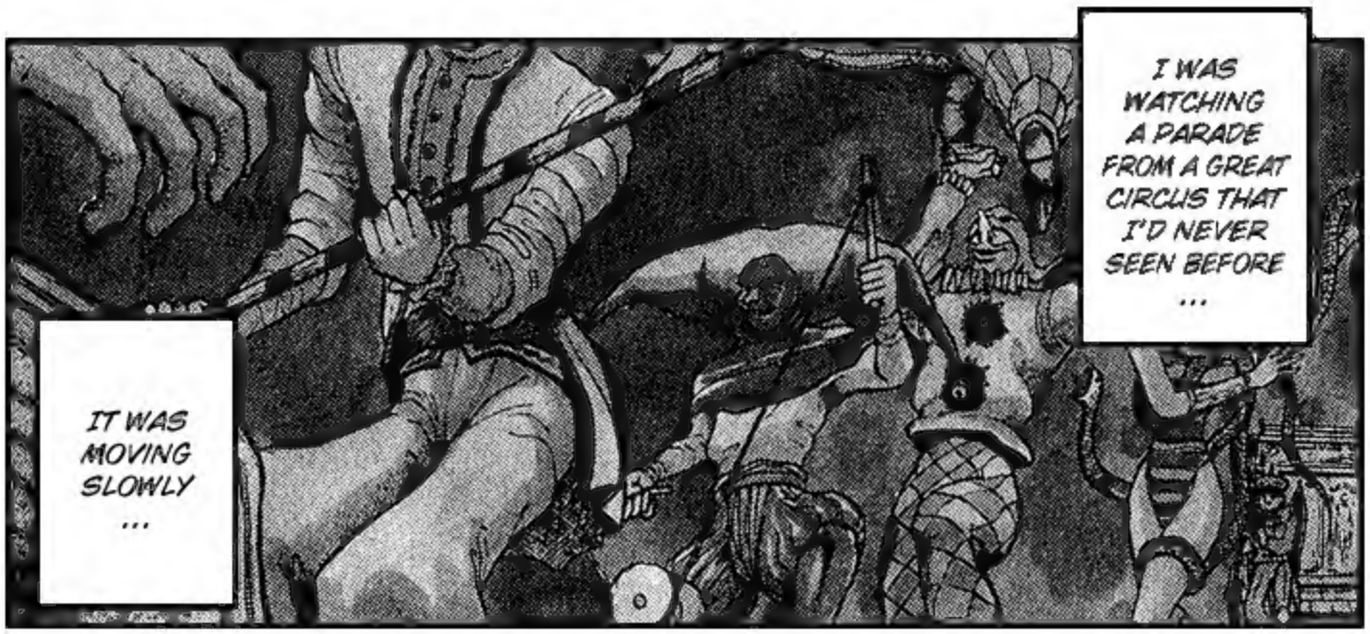
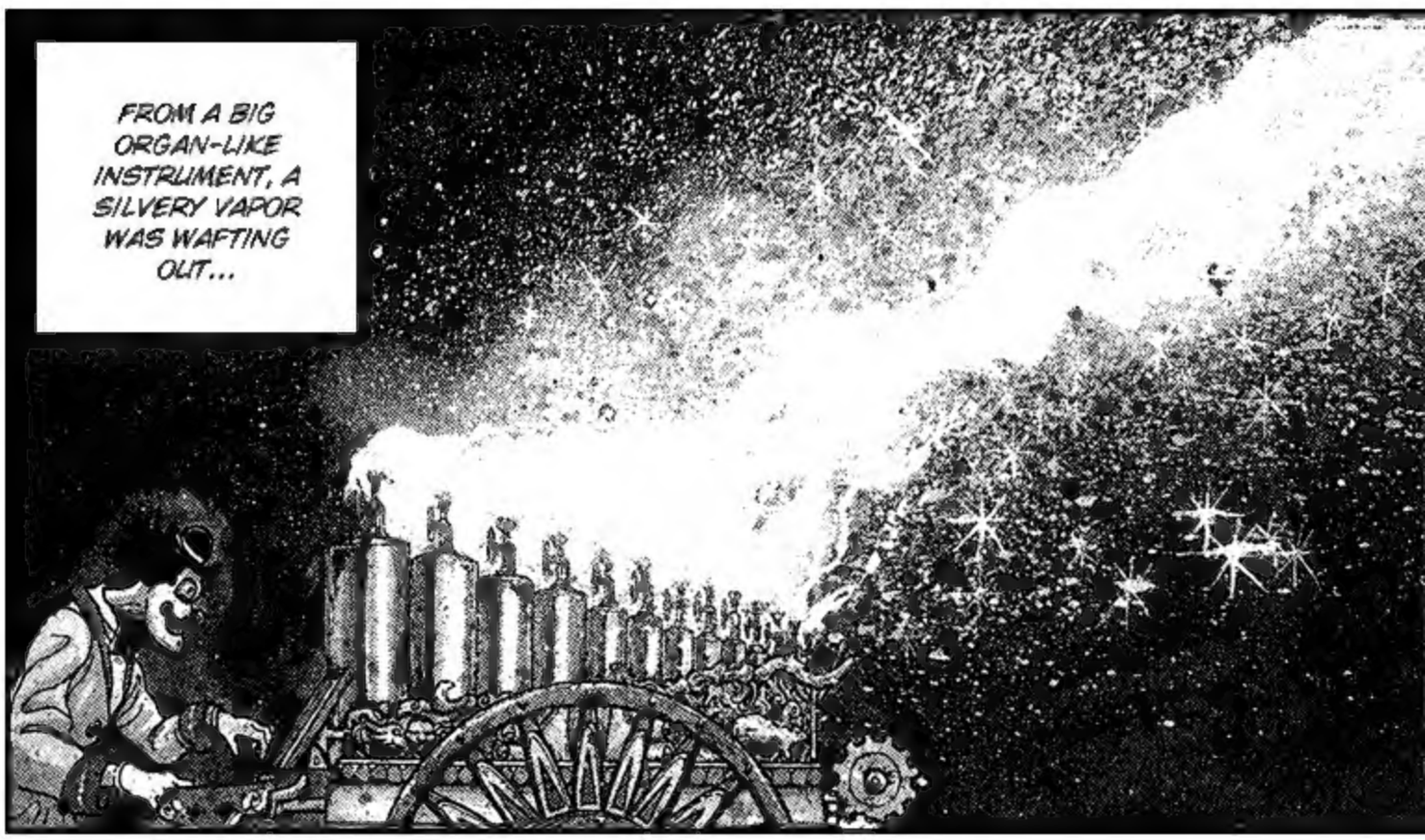
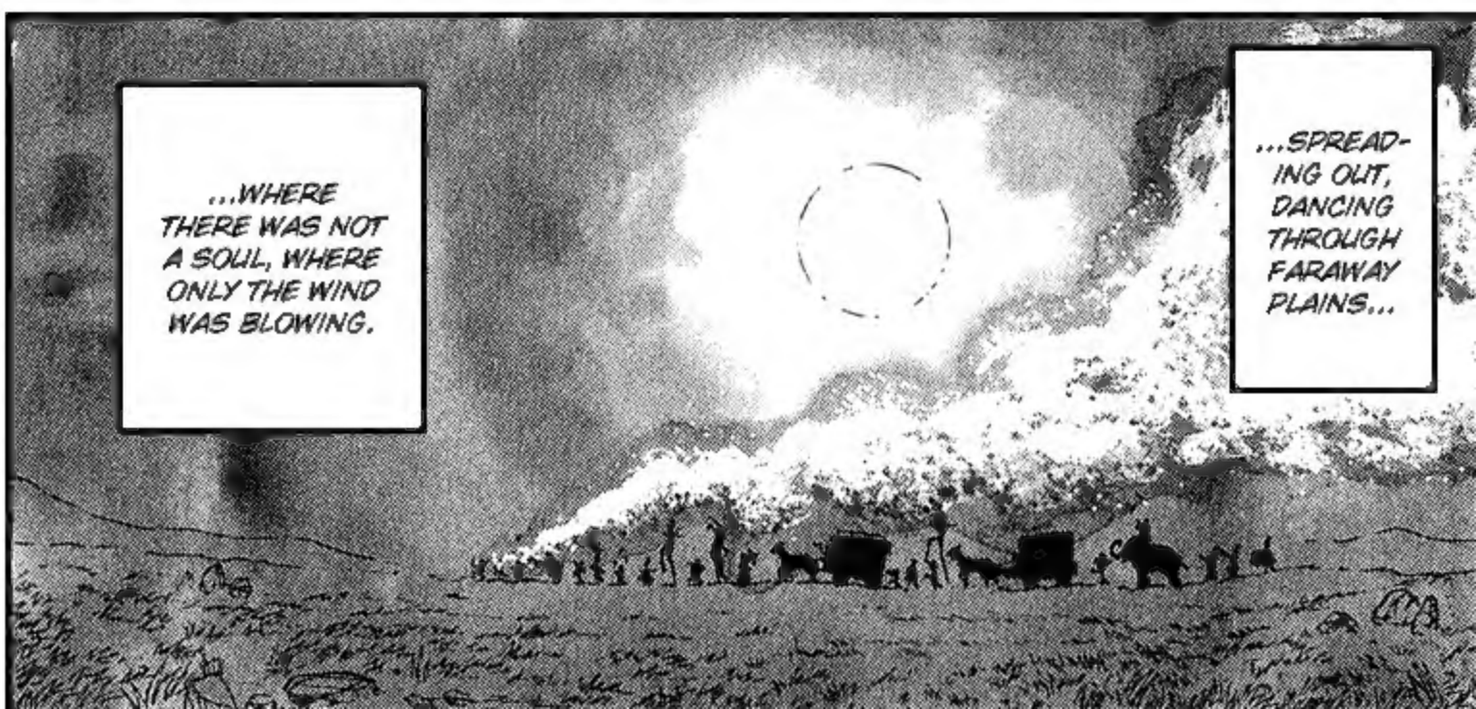
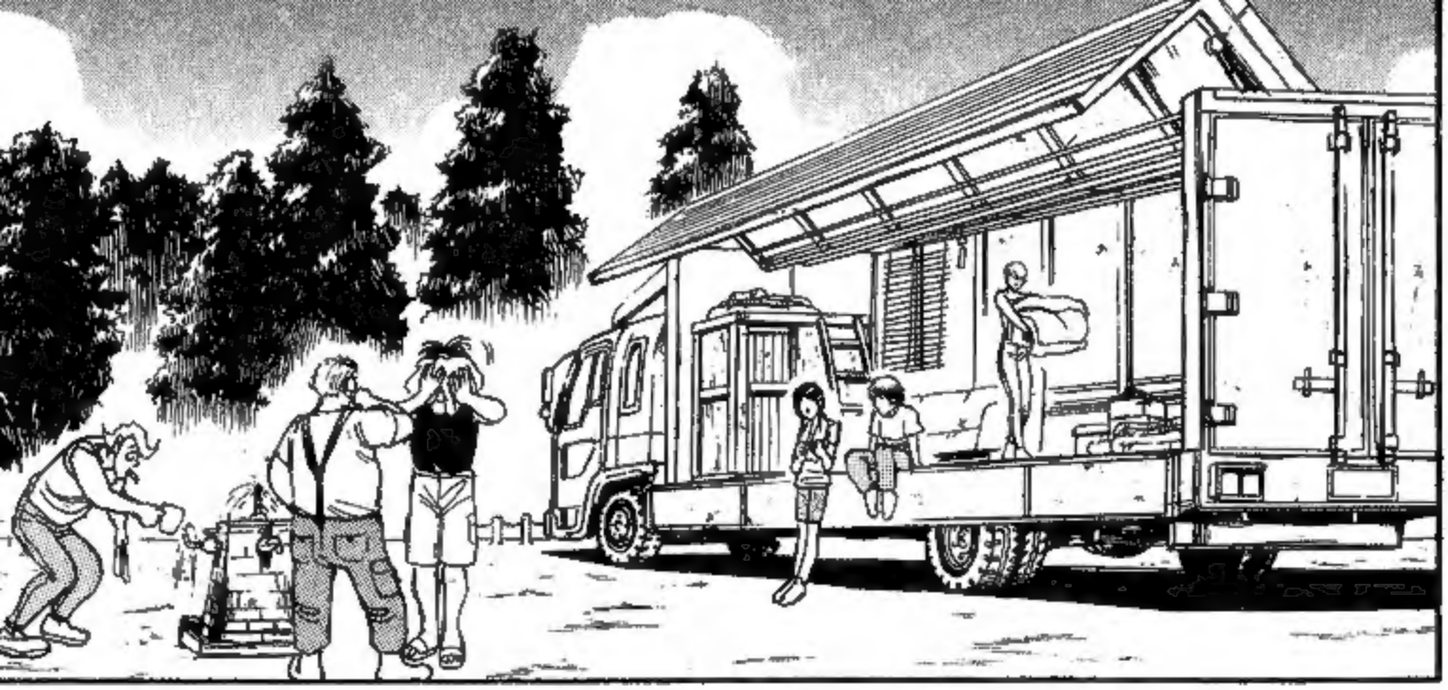

I WAS WATCHING A PARADE FROM A GREAT CIRCUS THAT I'D NEVER SEEN BEFORE ...
IT WAS MOVING SLOWLY ...

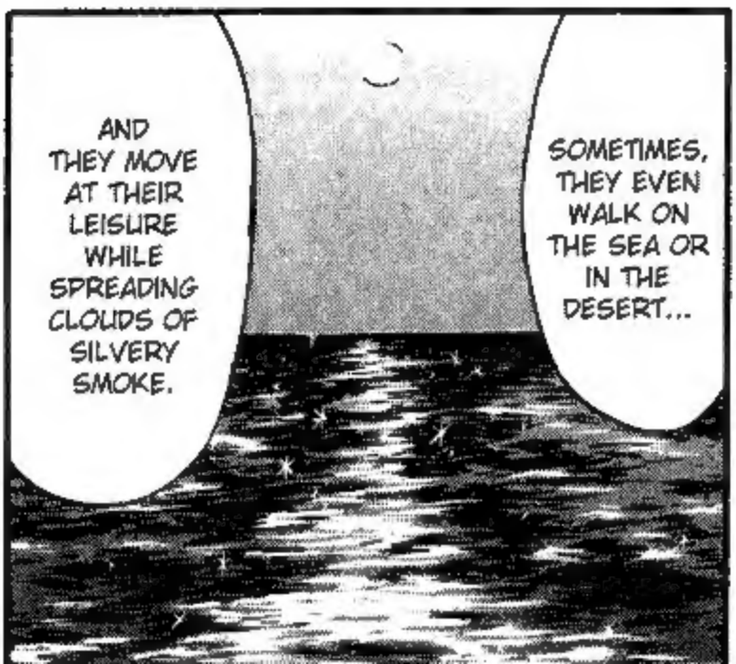

FROM A BIG ORGAN-LIKE INSTRUMENT, A SILVERY VAPOR WAS WAFTING OUT...


...WHERE THERE WAS NOT A SOUL, WHERE ONLY THE WIND WAS BLOWING.
...SPREADING OUT, DANCING THROUGH FARAWAY PLAINS...



PEOPLE SAY IT'S THE NOCTURNAL PARADE OF ALL THE DEAD CIRCUS ARTISTS...

...
I THINK I'VE HEARD ABOUT IT BEFORE.
...THAT WAS MY DREAM. PRETTY STRANGE, RIGHT?
WLAF


AND THEY MOVE AT THEIR LEISURE WHILE SPREADING CLOUDS OF SILVERY SMOKE.
SOMETIMES, THEY EVEN WALK ON THE SEA OR IN THE DESERT...

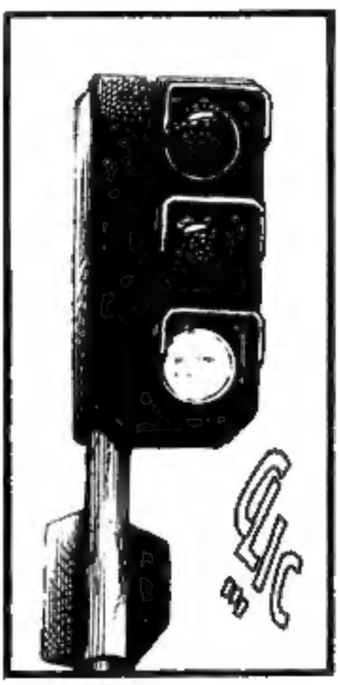
THEY WALK AT NIGHT THROUGH ALL THE STREETS OF THE WORLD...

...
IT SEEMS TO BE A VERY POPULAR STORY TOLD AMONG CIRCUS ARTISTS.
IT WAS FATHER GORO WHO TOLD ME THIS A WHILE BACK, WHILE WE WERE BOTH WORKING AT THIS AMERICAN CIRCUS...
HMM ...
IN FRANCE, THE CIRCUS ARTISTS CALLED IT...
AH... YES.
... HM?
HOW ABOUT YOU, SHIROGANE? DID YOU HEAR THIS STORY IN FRANCE?
..."THE MIDNIGHT CIRCUS."
...LITERALLY...
... CIRCUS?!
THE MIDNIGHT ...

VROUM
TUUUT

BIP

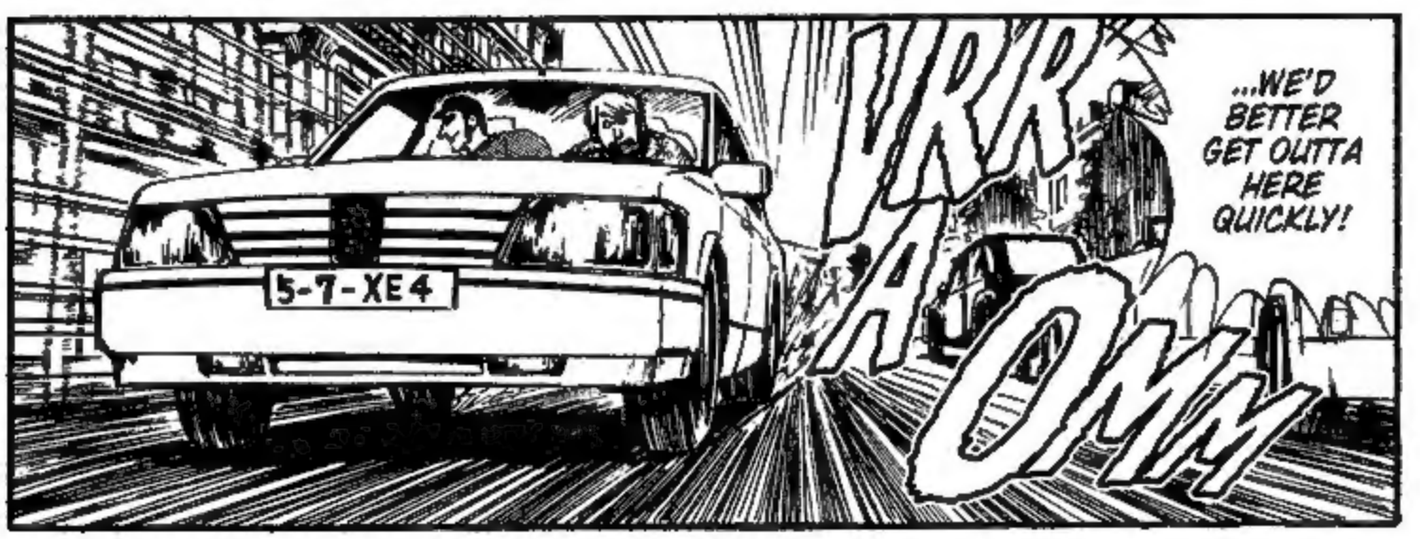
TAN
TAN

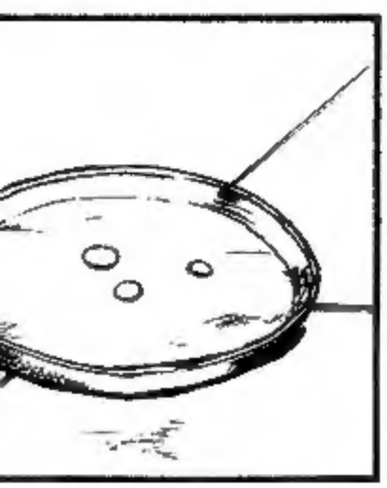

CLIC

THE CITIZENS BANK
BAAM
DOOM
TAAAN TA TA TA
AAA
ALRIGHT, LET'S ROLL!
TA TA TA TA
HAHAH
HA HA HA!

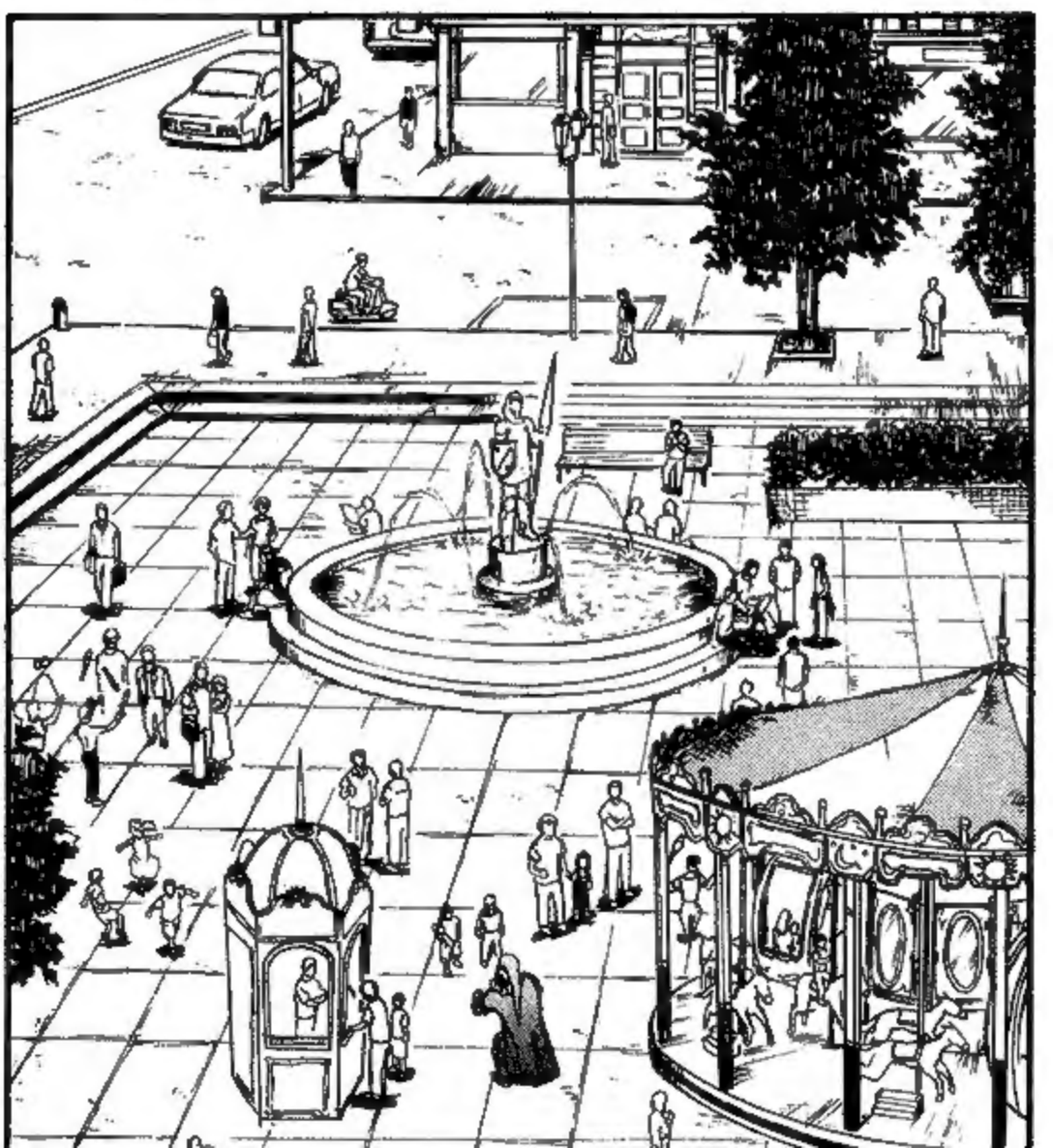
MAN, WE JUST MADE 400,000 EUROS AT ONCE!

TAN TAN TAN


5-7-XE4
VRRR
HOMM
...WE'D BETTER GET OUTTA HERE QUICKLY!

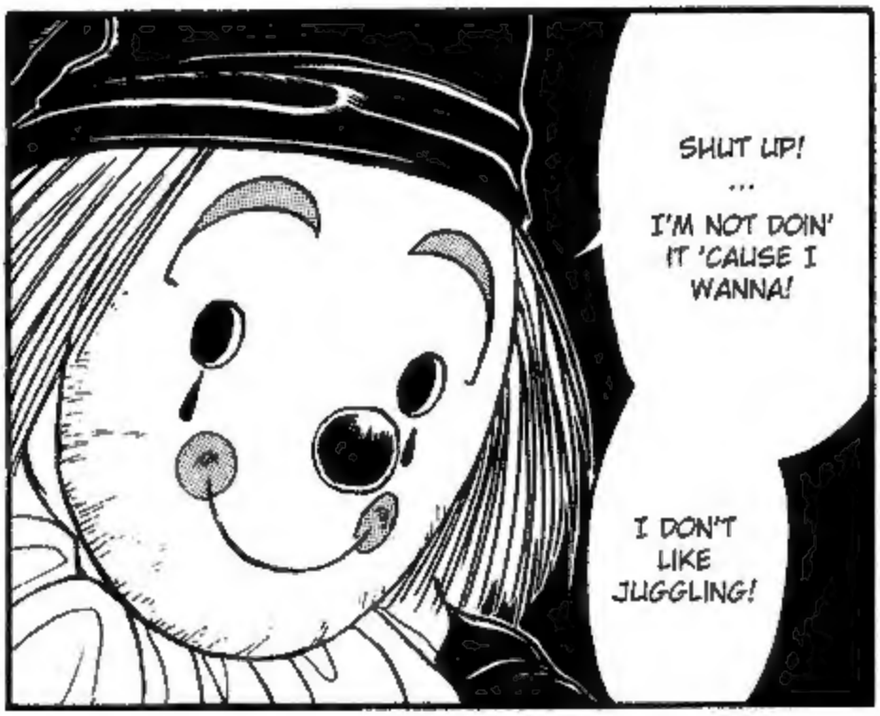


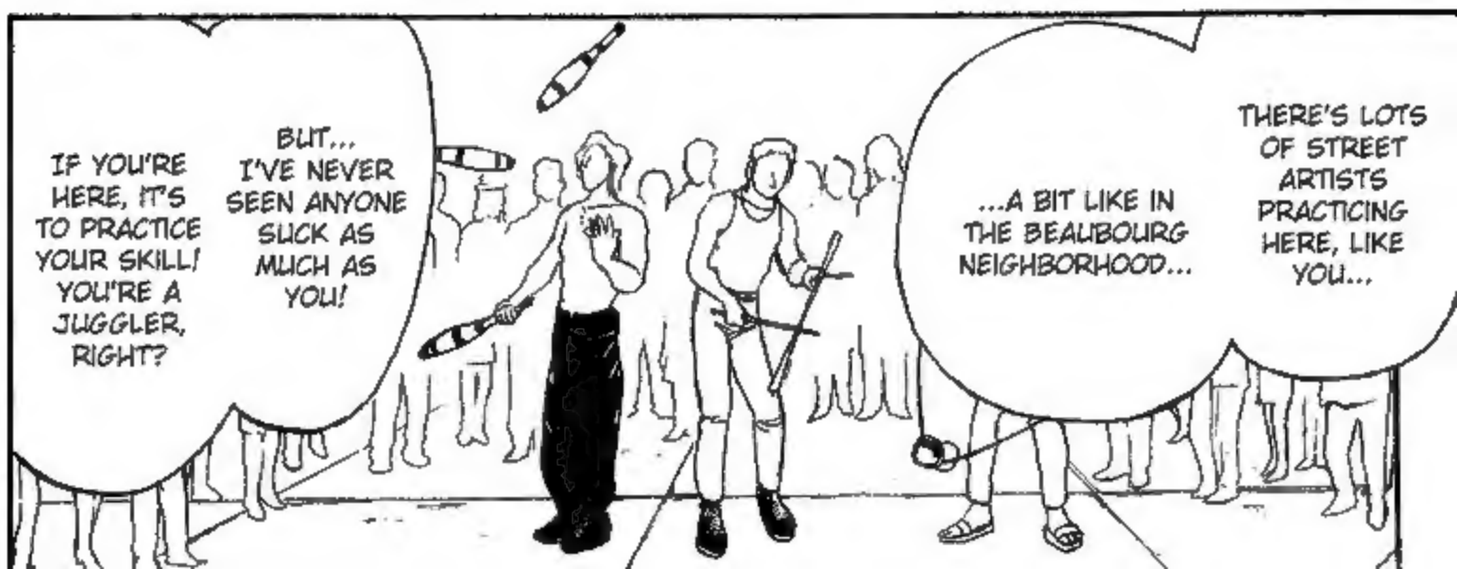
PIF
POF



HA HA HA! YOU REALLY SUCK!
YOU'RE NOT GONNA GET ANYONE'S ATTENTION LIKE THAT!
COTTON
POLOLON
HOP...
HOP...

WE'VE SEEN YOU HERE EVERY DAY FOR AT LEAST A MONTH! NO ONE'S MAKING YOU DO IT!
BAH... WHY D'YOU DO IT THEN ??!


SHUT UP! ... I'M NOT DOIN' IT 'CAUSE I WANNA!
I DON'T LIKE JUGGLING!


IF YOU'RE HERE, IT'S TO PRACTICE YOUR SKILL! YOU'RE A JUGGLER, RIGHT?
BUT... I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYONE SUCK AS MUCH AS YOU!
...A BIT LIKE IN THE BEAUBOURG NEIGHBORHOOD...
THERE'S LOTS OF STREET ARTISTS PRACTICING HERE, LIKE YOU...

WHAT ARE YOU BABBLING ABOUT?!
I FEEL LIKE JUGGLING REALLY ISN'T WHAT I DO... I'M NOT A PROFESSIONAL JUGGLER, THAT'S FOR SURE!
HUH?
THAT'S WHAT I DON'T GET...
YEAH... THAT'S IT...
HEY, DON'T YOU THINK HE'S TOTALLY CRAZY?
He's so weird!
THIS GUY, I THINK HE'S A DOCTOR, TOLD ME TO KEEP ON PRACTICING UNTIL I GET MY MEMORIES BACK...
AND I LOST... PART OF MY MEMORIES...
I THINK... I HAD A BIG ACCIDENT...
HOP
HOP
AH! WELL, SEE YA, MISTER AMNESIAC JUGGLER!
HEY, JEAN! BERNARD IS IN A FIGHT!
BO TO TO NN
AND... YOU DON'T REMEMBER AT ALL WHAT YOU DID BEFORE?
SO, IT'S LIKE A TREATMENT FOR YOU? THAT'S PRETTY COOL!

WE PROMISE! WE WON'T DO IT AGAIN!
SHUT UP! I TOLD YOU I'M NOT A JUGGLER!
...AND DON'T TRY TO STEAL A KNIFE FROM ANOTHER JUGGLER AGAIN, LIKE LAST TIME!

SOMETIMES...
SOME IMAGES APPEAR BEFORE ME...
DESPITE EVERYTHING...

...HIGH IN THE SKY...
LIKE FLAMES...

WHY IS SHE CRYING?
WHO IS SHE CRYING FOR?

...WITH SILVERY EYES...
...AND THEN... A FACE... A WOMAN...

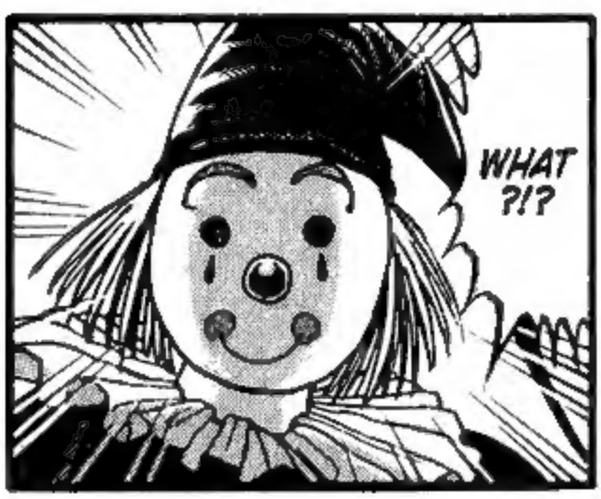
AND ALSO...

...THIS SMILING BOY.

I CAN'T REMEMBER WHO HE IS...

BUT... HIS SMILING FACE IS SO BRIGHT!

BLONG
SCRAM!
111KK
SBAAM
DONF


WHAT ?!?

HE HE HE!

H...HELP!!!
AH...

SAH...

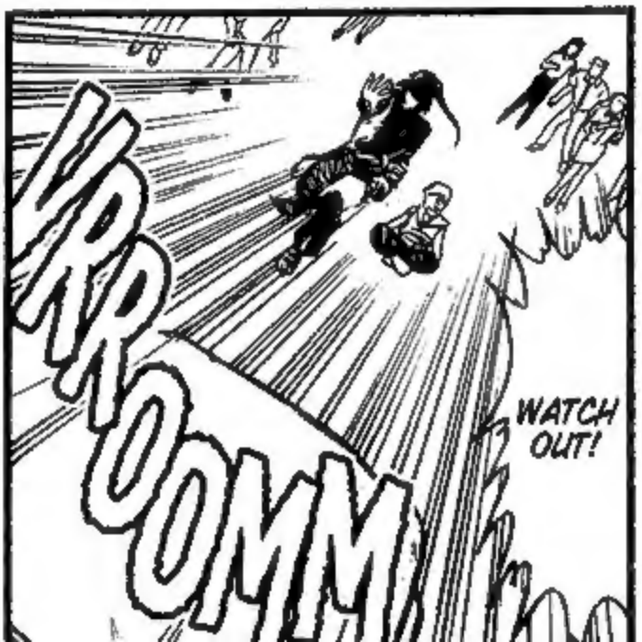
JEAN!

SCHHHA
AAHHA
...HUH ?!?

SAH...

TAN...

GET OUTTA THE WAY!
VRRROMM


VRROOMM
WATCH OUT!

BRLAANN
ZZOHH
I'M NO JUGGLER, THAT'S FOR SURE!
PLNG
YOU'RE ...
YOU ...
GVONG
BAM
NNNN

YAP!
...AND MY NAME IS NARUMI!